

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic transmission apparatus comprising :
a ~~first member~~ clutch drum rotating integrally with an input shaft and including a first cylindrical portion having an inner spline at an inner peripheral surface thereof;
a ~~second member~~ hub including a second cylindrical portion having an outer spline for engaging with the inner spline of the ~~first member~~ clutch drum and a an inwardly directed depressed portion formed on the second member located between two adjacent regions where the inner and outer splines engage one another; and
a clearance~~[[,]]~~ which establishes a communication between an inner portion surrounded by the ~~first and the second members~~ hub and an outer portion outside the clutch drum, ~~of the first and the second members~~, is the clearance being formed between an outer surface of the depressed portion of the second member hub and the inner peripheral surface of the first member clutch drum, the clearance possessing a radial dimension greater than a radial dimension between an inner surface of the inner spline and an outer surface of the outer spline in the two adjacent regions where the inner and outer splines engage one another.

2. (Currently Amended) An automatic transmission apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~first member rotating~~ clutch drum rotates integrally with the input

shaft and including the first cylindrical portion having the inner spline at the inner peripheral surface is connected with the input shaft by welding.

3. (Currently Amended) An automatic transmission apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the input shaft is engaged with a torque converter through spline engagement manner.

4. (Currently Amended) An automatic transmission apparatus according to claim 3 1, wherein the depressed portion is formed at part of or all of groove bottoms of the outer spline of the second member ~~is formed by pressing process~~ hub.

5. (Currently Amended) An automatic transmission apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the depressed portion ~~formed at part of or all of groove bottoms of the outer spline of the second member~~ is formed inward direction by a pressing process.

6. (New) An automatic transmission apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the radial dimension of the clearance gradually increases in a circumferential direction of the depressed portion from a region adjacent where the inner and outer splines engage one another to a middle portion of the depressed portion.